

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (New): Peptide composition characterized in that it comprises a polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

Claim 19 (New): Peptide composition according to claim 18, characterized in that NS3 and/or NS4 and/or NS5b originate from viruses of different genotypes.

Claim 20 (New): Peptide composition according to claim 18, characterized in that NS3, NS4 and NS5b originate from a virus of the same genotype, preferably genotype 1b.

Claim 21 (New): Expression vector characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b, as well as the means necessary to their expression.

Claim 22 (New): Expression vector according to claim 21, characterized in that the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from viruses of different genotypes.

Claim 23 (New): Expression vector according to claim 21, characterized in that the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a virus of the same genotype, preferably the genotype 1b.

Claim 24 (New): Expression vector according to claim 21, characterized in that this vector is an adenovirus.

Claim 25 (New): Expression vector according to claim 24, characterized in that the genome of the adenovirus is modified so as to replace the E1 region by the expression cassette CMV-NS3-NS4 and to replace the E3 region by the expression cassette SV40- NS5b.

Claim 26 (New): Expression vector according to claim 21, characterized in that this vector is a poxvirus.

Claim 27 (New): Expression vector according to claim 26, characterized in that the genome of the poxvirus is modified so as to insert the expression cassette ph5r-NS3-NS4 and to insert the expression cassette p7.5- NS5b.

Claim 28 (New): Microorganism or host cell transformed by an expression vector as defined in claim 21.

Claim 29 (New): A method for the inhibition, prevention or control of an infection caused by the hepatitis C virus in an animal, preferably human, comprising the use of a peptide composition that comprises a polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, or of an expression vector as defined in claim 21, or of an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b, or nucleotide sequences coding for said polyprotein NS3/NS4 and said polypeptide NS5b, said nucleotide sequences corresponding to the sequences contained in the expression vectors as defined in claim 21, placed under the control of elements necessary to an expression constitutive of and/or inducible from said peptides.

Claim 30 (New): Pharmaceutical composition, in particular vaccine, comprising as active ingredient the peptide composition that comprises a polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus, or an expression vector as defined in claim 21, or an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide.

Claim 31 (New): Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, characterized in that it also comprises a pharmaceutically appropriate vehicle.

Claim 32 (New): Pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal, characterized in that it comprises at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide NS5b.

Claim 33 (New): Pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal, characterized in that it comprises:

at least one expression vector characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b, as well as the means necessary to their expression, wherein said vector is an adenovirus; and

at least one expression vector characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b, as well as the means necessary to their expression, wherein said vector is a poxvirus.

Claim 34 (New): Pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal, comprising at least one expression vector as defined in claim 21, or at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide NS5b, and

- (i) at least one peptide composition that comprises a polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus or
- (ii) at least one nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and for the polypeptide NS5b.